

Dominating

the skyline near to One Stop is Bullocks construction crane that is helping to build a £6



million supported housing scheme for older people. A ceremony launched the start of work on St Teresa's



Re-Building Birchfield, St Teresa's Court Sheltered Housing Scheme

Court, being built on a site next to St Teresa's Roman Catholic Church in Birchfield, where the church's former social centre had fallen into disrepair. His Grace, Bernard Longley, the RC Archbishop of Birmingham, and John Morris, Chief Executive of Trident Social Investment Group, dug officially, the first spade of soil at the ceremony back in the Spring.



Father Simon Hall, looks down, when he was the Parish Priest, on this ceremony which took place to open the site in the Spring. Perhaps he has in mind to try out the big digger



It is the product of a unique partnership between Midlands-based Trident Group, which provides housing, care and support services to vulnerable people across the region, and Cornerstone Regeneration, a Charity which spearheads regeneration and development projects on behalf of the Catholic Church.

St Teresa's Court will offer quality homes to people aged over 55, with a range of communal facilities and support services on site. There will be 42 self-contained one and two-bedroom flats, with four specially designed so they are accessible to people with disabilities.

Anthony McCool, Charity Lead at Trident Reach the People Charity, said: "Trident Group and the Church will work in partnership to deliver a unique service to cater for the practical, emotional and spiritual needs of residents. "St Teresa's Court will offer quality accommodation, together with flexible support, for older people.

"It will enable residents to maintain their independence and be part of the local community, while having the peace of mind that support is

there when they need it.

"There will also be a range of communal facilities to promote a real sense of community among residents at the scheme, reducing the sense of isolation many people feel as they grow older."

Monsignor Daniel McHugh, Executive Director of **Cornerstone Regeneration**, said: "This is an important day for all of us. "After years of planning, we are about to embark on what promises to be a fruitful and rewarding relationship which will create a quality scheme offering our older people the lifestyle they want in a safe and secure environment."

He added: "When completed, this development will also make a significant impact on the local area, promoting a sense of community safety and complementing Birmingham City Council's regeneration plans for Perry Barr."

Cornerstone Regeneration works to place the Catholic Church at the service of the wider community through ethical investment in sustainable and socially worthwhile projects.

The **Trident Group**, through its **Trident Reach** arm, has an office based locally at Grosvenor Studios, providing life skills to disadvantaged young people plus housing advice and tenancy support to those needing accommodation. The overall aims of Trident are to support these groups of people to live independently and make a positive contribution to their communities by gaining the most possible control over their lives, enabling them to participate actively and equally within their community. Trident has a 'People First' ethos and assists also in providing housing, care and support services to vulnerable people across the Midlands, including homeless people, the elderly, people with learning disabilities or mental health issues and women fleeing domestic violence. We hope to feature their activity in a future Bugle.



Aiden Roberts, Site Supervisor, with an apprentice worker

We asked the Construction company, Bullocks, who worked on the London Olympic site, if they employ local workers and would be offering apprenticeships. It seems that they will employ local people in the later fitting-out stages of the project, which is due to finish, in November 2014, according to Project manager, John Lines.